

Closer to *A.s.similis* in size but paler and less heavily streaked on the breast.

Type: ♂ Aingdo, Yamethin district, Central Burma, 15th November 1938, collected by H. C. Smith, Brit. Mus. Reg. No. 1948.80.2754. Wing 89, bill 19, tail 72, hind claw 10, tarsus 26 mm.

Range: Hills and foothills in the Yamethin, Meiktila, Myingyan, Pakokku and Mandalay districts of Central Burma.

Specimens examined: 8 ♂, 3 ♀ and 7 unsexed adults of which one with a wing of 84 mm. has been presumed a female in compiling the table of measurements: 2 juveniles (August and September): compared with a large series of *A.s.jerdoni*.

A Note on Some Generic Names in the Timaliinae

by MR. H. G. DEIGNAN

Received 11th March, 1957

Authors who treat as congeneric the 17 to 19 species of Timaliinae formerly distributed under the generic names of *Trichastoma* Blyth, 1842, *Malacocincla* Blyth, 1845, *Illadopsis* Heine, 1860, *Nannothera* Sundevall, 1872, *Erythrocichla* Sharpe, 1883, *Anuropsis* Sharpe, 1883, *Aethostoma* Sharpe, 1902, and *Elocincla* Riley, 1939, should note that the oldest available name is *Trichastoma* Blyth, 1842 (genotype: *Tr. rostratum* Blyth), which, under current interpretations of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, is *not* preoccupied by *Trichostoma* Pictet, 1834, Trichoptera.

Blyth's spelling was emended by Strickland in 1849 to *Trichostoma*, and in this form the name was generally adopted by subsequent writers, until, in 1902, Sharpe gave the new name *Aethostoma*, on grounds of homonymy. This Sharpean name should, however, be considered a replacement only of Strickland's unwarranted emendation.

I wish also to point out that, when *Turdinus* is combined with *Napothera*, and *Siva* with *Minla*, the latter name in each pair is the correct one to use.

Notes on African Larks—Part IV

by MR. C. M. N. WHITE

Received 24th December, 1956.

The genus Certhilauda

In the present notes I have taken as the basis for discussion the conception of *Certhilauda* adopted by Mienertzhagen (*P.Z.S.* 1951). This treatment of *Certhilauda* was not very happy, partly because he omitted to study *Mirafra* and partly because he allowed bill form to influence too greatly the criteria for the genus. In fact as I have pointed out elsewhere the distinction between *Certhilauda* and *Mirafra* is an arbitrary one; bill form is an unsafe generic character alone since this is probably the most plastic organ of a bird's structure. I believe that *Certhilauda* as proposed by Meinertzhagen in 1951 is a composite group which needs rearrangement. The species included by him were:

(i) *Chersophilus duponti* (Vieillot). My knowledge of this North African lark is limited to the museum but it does not seem closely allied to *Certhilauda*. Its white outer tail feather and reduced first primary are unlike the true *Certhilauda* species and in general it suggests to me possible origin from *Mirafra*, such as *M.africana*. It is preferable to keep it as a monotypic genus until more is known of its affinities.